

1. (currently amended) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
a an elongated housing having opposed sides;
an ignition button and a safety button extending through and supported by the housing;
the ignition and safety buttons being arranged on said opposed respective sides;
a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button ~~and to a fuel source;~~
an actuating member that is separately pivotally supported from yet ~~operatively connected~~
~~to responsive to the ignition button and to~~ for controlling an ignition source;
wherein, when a force is exerted on both the ignition button and the safety button, the fuel source is opened and the ignition source is activated to light the lighter, and when the force on the ignition and safety buttons is released, the fuel source is closed, the ignition source is de-activated, and the safety button automatically returns to a locked or off position.

Please add the following new claims:

2. (New) The lighter of claim 1 wherein the housing has upper and lower ends and the safety button is located on one side of the housing at a position that is closer to the upper end of the housing than the location of the ignition button so as to more naturally match the buttons to the hand position of the user.
3. (New) The lighter of claim 2 wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.
4. (New) The lighter of claim 3 wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the biasing member comprises a coil spring supported at the bottom of the safety button shaft to normally urge the safety button to an upper position.

5. (New) The lighter of claim 4 wherein said actuating member has an arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position.
6. (New) The lighter of claim 5 wherein the actuating member also has a second arm that actuates the ignition source.
7. (New) The lighter of claim 6 wherein the arms are disposed at an acute angle to each other.
8. (New) The lighter of claim 1 wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.
9. (New) The lighter of claim 1 wherein the actuating member is supported at a pivot point that is above the ignition button.
10. (New) The lighter of claim 9 the actuating member has two arms, one arm for contacting the ignition source and the other arm for engaging between the buttons.
11. (New) The lighter of claim 10 wherein the ignition source is disposed over said one arm.
12. (New) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
a longitudinal housing having upper and lower ends and one and another opposed side walls;
an ignition button extending through and supported by said housing disposed between said upper and lower ends and arranged on said one side wall of said housing;

a safety button extending through and supported by said housing disposed between said upper and lower ends and arranged on said another side wall of said housing;

a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button to normally bias the safety button to a locked position;

an actuating member operatively connected to the ignition button and to an ignition source; said actuating member being independently pivotally supported adjacent said ignition and safety buttons;

said actuating member having an arm that is urged by said ignition button to an igniting position when said safety button is at its released position and blocks said ignition button when said safety button is in its locked position;

wherein, when a force is exerted on both the ignition button and the safety button, the ignition button is free to move to its ignition position, and when the force on the ignition and safety buttons is released, the safety button automatically returns to its locked position.

13. (New) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the safety button is located on one side of the housing at a position that is closer to the upper end of the housing than the location of the ignition button so as to more naturally match the buttons to the hand position of the user.
14. (New) The lighter of claim 13 wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.
15. (New) The lighter of claim 14 wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the biasing member comprises a coil spring supported at the bottom of the safety button shaft to normally urge the safety button to an upper position.

16. (New) The lighter of claim 15 wherein said actuating member has an arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position.
17. (New) The lighter of claim 16 wherein the actuating member also has a second arm that actuates an ignition source.
18. (New) The lighter of claim 17 wherein the arms are disposed at an acute angle to each other.
19. (New) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.
20. (New) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the actuating member is supported at a pivot point that is above the ignition button.
21. (New) The lighter of claim 20 the actuating member has two arms, one arm for contacting the ignition source and the other arm for engaging between the buttons.
22. (New) The lighter of claim 21 wherein the ignition source is disposed over said one arm.
23. (New) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the safety button is normally biased to an upper position and is manually operated to a lower position.
24. (New) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the safety button is located on one side of the housing at a position that is closer to the upper end of the housing than the location of the ignition

button so as to more naturally match the buttons to the hand position of the user; wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing; wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the biasing member comprises a coil spring supported at the bottom of the safety button shaft to normally urge the safety button to an upper position; wherein said actuating member has an arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position; wherein the actuating member also has a second arm that actuates an ignition source; wherein the ignition source is disposed over said second arm; wherein the safety button is normally biased to an upper position and is manually operated to a lower position; wherein a separating wall is disposed between the actuating member shaft and the ignition button; and wherein the ignition button has a rounded upper end that engages with said one arm.